THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Supreme Court in its majority judgement in Indira Sawhney and other Vs. Union of India and other (Mandal Case) had observed as under:

"the reservations contemplated in clause (4) of article 16 should not exceed 50 per cent. While 50 per cent shall be the rule, it is necessary not to put out of consideration certain extraordinary situations inherent in the great diversity of this country and the people. It might happen that in far flung and remote areas the population inhabiting those areas might, on account of their out of the mainstream of national life and in view of the conditions peculiar to and characteristic of them, need to be treated in a different way, some relaxation in this strict rule may become imperative. In doing so, extreme caution is to be exercised and a special case made out."

It would thus be seen that the Supreme Court itself had visualised certain extreme situations where departure from the 50 per cent rule could be justified and a special case made out.

(c) (i) The following States provide 50 per cent or less than 50 per cent reservation quota for backward classes (SCs, STs and OBCs) in the Sate Services: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa; Gujarat; Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Maharashtra. Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthtan, Uttar Pradesh; West Bengal and Tripura.

The State of Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura are not; at present providing reservation for OBSs.

The States of Sikkim does not provide any reservation for SCs, STs or OBCs.

(ii) The States which are providing reservation in excess of 50 per cent are as follows; Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Nagaland; Tamil Nadu.

Welfare Schemes for Tribals

1746. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated 13th July, 1994 regarding welfare schemes/schemes of Government not reaching tribals in several states.parts of the country; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto stating the steps taken to provide welfare to tribals in the concerned area/parts of the conutry?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) The information has been called for from all the Tribal sub-plan States/UTs. The same will be laid on the Table of the House as and when received.

[*The Deputy Chairman* in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification of the Ministry of Food

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): Madam, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a copy (in Engish and Hindi) of the Ministry of Food Notification S.O. No. 374, dated the 13th